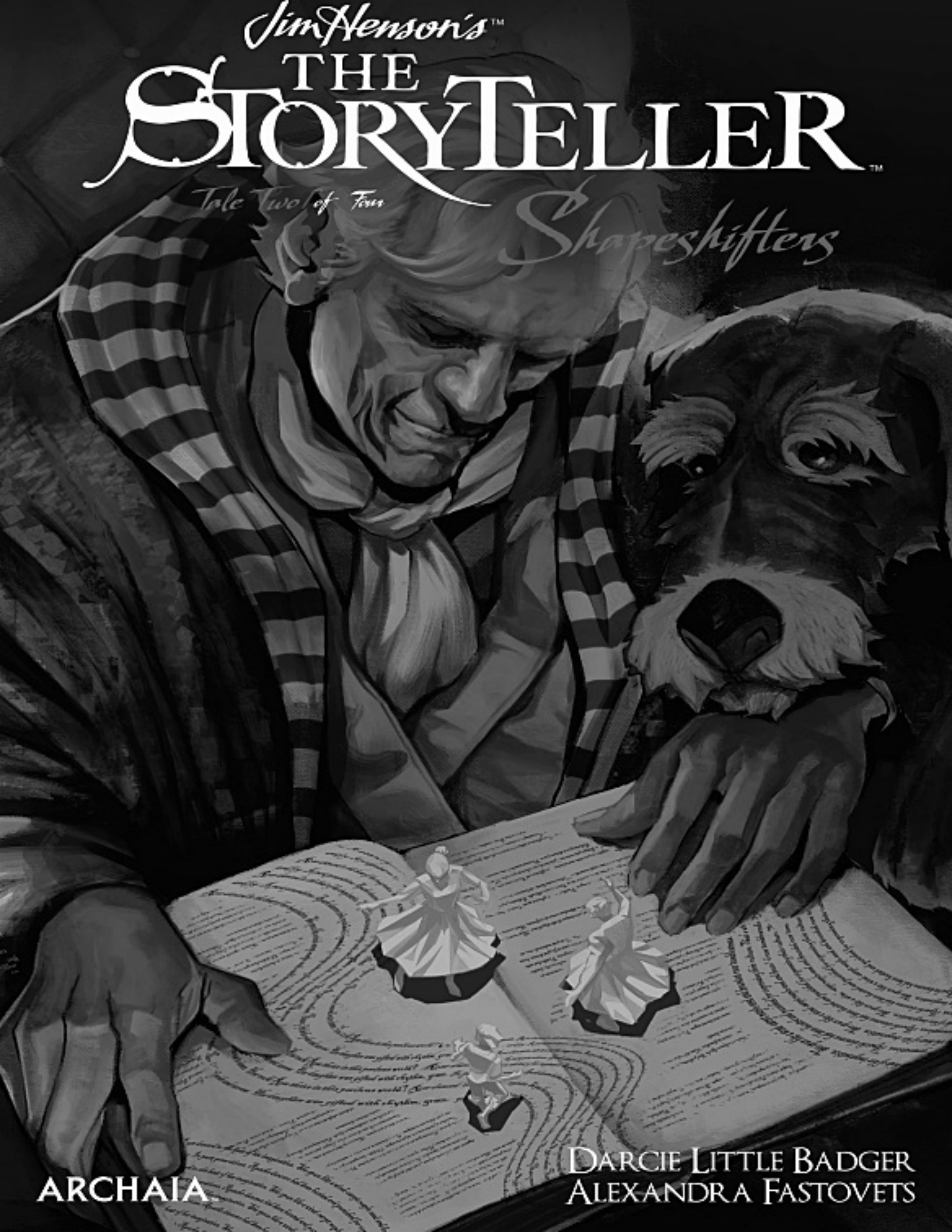
Jim Henson's™

THE STORYTELLER™

Tale Two of Four

Shapeshifters



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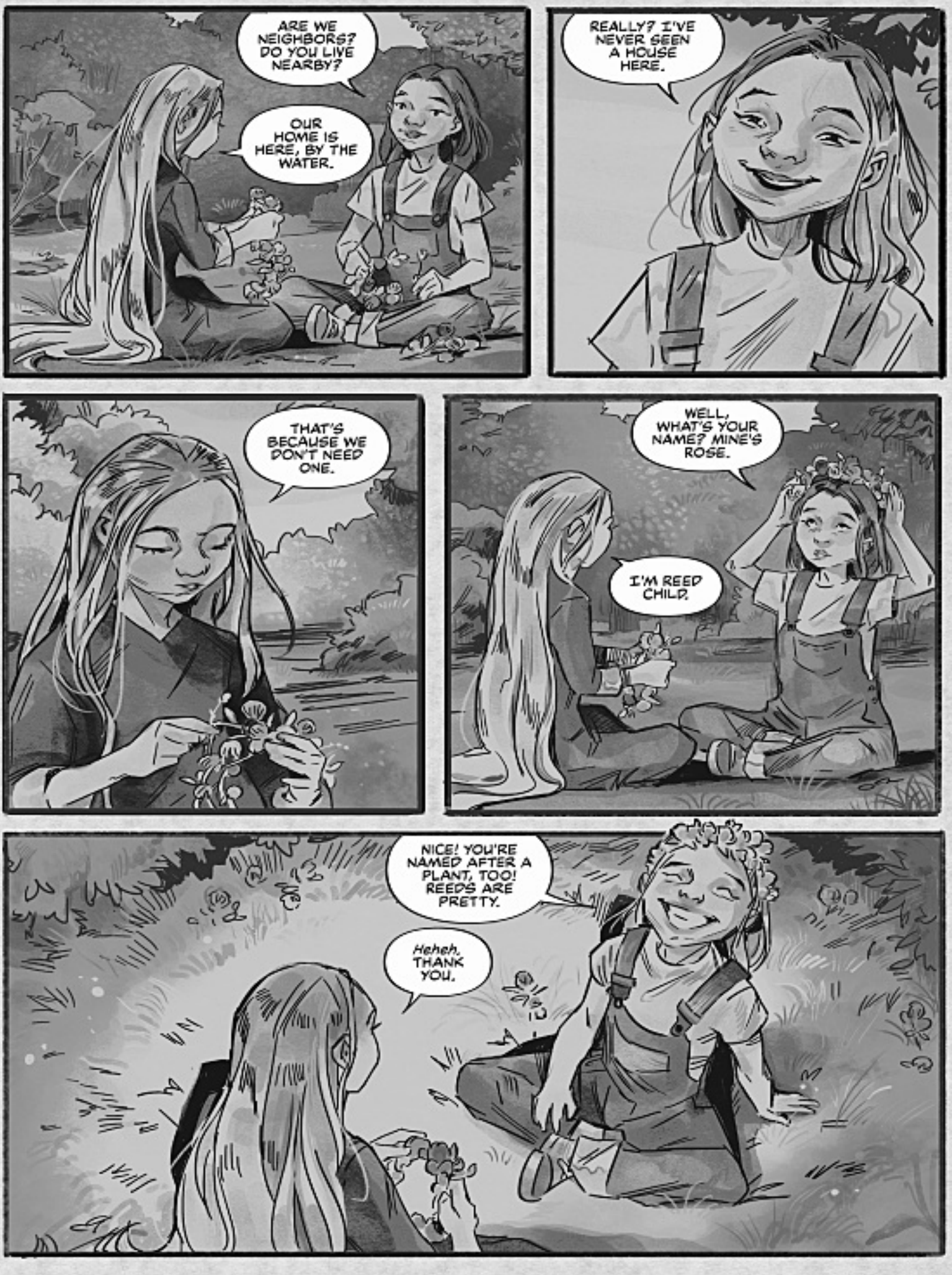
FWOOSH
Oh!
FWOOSH
EVERY TIME THE WIND BLOWS, IT LOOKS LIKE THE PLANTS ARE DANCING!
FWOOSH
Hm. PERHAPS THEY ARE.
HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE REED PEOPLE?
NO, WHO ARE THEY?
TO MOST, THE REED PEOPLE ARE JUST PLANTS SWAYING IN THE BREEZE...

BUT SOMETIMES, THEY REVEAL THEMSELVES AS...
DANCERS.
DON'T PLAY IN THE DIRT, ROSE!
OKAY, MOMMA!
MARY'S DAUGHTER HAD BEEN GIFTED WITH RHYTHM AND GRACE.
ROSE DANCED TO THE BEAT OF HER IMAGINATION. SHE SPUN LIKE A WIND-SWEPT MAPLE SEED...
...AND BOUNDED OVER TUMBLEWEEDS.
YET HER MOTHER WORRIED.
IN PAST GENERATIONS, APACHE DANCERS HAD BEEN HUNTED AND PUNISHED FOR EXPRESSING THEIR CULTURE, THEIR JOY.
CLCK
MANY ANCESTRAL DANCES HAVE BEEN LOST.
HOW COULD ROSE THRIVE IN THIS PERILOUS WORLD?

RUSTLE RUSTLE
Huh?
SKUNK!
PLEASE STAY BACK! I JUST HAD A BATH!
FWSH
Whew.
WHO'S THERE?

DO YOU WANT TO PLAY WITH US?
WOW! YES!
AT FIRST, ROSE DIDN'T QUESTION HER GOOD LUCK. FRIENDS HER AGE WERE RARE IN THE MIDDLE OF HILL COUNTRY.
WE SHOULD DANCE IN CROWNS. I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO MAKE ONE!


ARE WE NEIGHBORS? DO YOU LIVE NEARBY?
OUR HOME IS HERE, BY THE WATER.
REALLY? I'VE NEVER SEEN A HOUSE HERE.
THAT'S BECAUSE WE DON'T NEED ONE.
WELL, WHAT'S YOUR NAME? MINE'S ROSE.
I'M REED CHILD.
NICE! YOU'RE NAMED AFTER A PLANT, TOO! REEDS ARE PRETTY.
Heheh. THANK YOU.

DO YOU WANT TO DANCE MORE?
ALWAYS. MOMMA SAYS I'M A NATURAL.
SAY, HOW DO Y'ALL KNOW SO MANY SWELL MOVES?
MY FOLKS HAVE LIVED HERE FOREVER. WE'VE WITNESSED ALL KINDS OF DANCES.
OLD ONES, NEW ONES. BIG, IMPORTANT CEREMONIES AND TOTAL LARKS.
IS IT HARD TO LEARN ALL THAT?
YES AND NO. IT TAKES PRACTICE AND PERSEVERANCE.
I CAN MANAGE BOTH!

ROSE?
ROSE?

OVER HERE, MOMMA! I'M PLAYING WITH MY FRIENDS!
WHAT FRIENDS?

Huh? THEY WERE JUST HERE!

I GOT WORRIED. DON'T WANDER OUT OF SIGHT.
SORRY. THERE WAS A SKUNK, SO I RAN, AND THEN REED ASKED ME TO DANCE WITH ALL HER FRIENDS.
DON'T FIB, EITHER.
CROSS MY HEART, THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED!

WHY DIDN'T ROSE'S MOTHER SEE THE REED PEOPLE?
THEY HID FROM HER.

ROSE STAYED AWAKE ALL NIGHT THINKING OF HER NEW FRIENDS, WAITING FOR DAWN TO VISIT THEM AGAIN.
SHE DREADED THAT THEY WERE SIMPLY A VIVID DREAM.
IT'S ROSE!
HI ROSE!
I KNEW YOU WERE REAL!
LOOK AT MY SPECIAL DANCE MOVE.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
IT'S GREAT. DO IT AGAIN!

OVER THE YEARS, ROSE LEARNED MANY OTHER DANCE MOVES. AS A GIRL, SHE ONLY PERFORMED IN FRONT OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS.
BUT AS A WOMAN, ROSE DANCED BEFORE THOUSANDS.
BRAVA!
BRAVA!
SHE'D ACHIEVED A LIFELONG GOAL. THAT MADE HER HAPPY, OF COURSE.
YET ROSE KEENLY MISSED HOME.
SHE YEARNED FOR THE DANCES OF HER YOUTH.

DID YOU HEAR? THEY'RE GOING TO MAKE HER PRINCIPAL DANCER.
SERIOUSLY? SHE'S GOOD, BUT IS ROSE REALLY PRIMA BALLERINA MATERIAL?
SURE I AM. GOODNIGHT, LADIES.
SIGH

MOMMA! DID YOU MISS ME?

WE ALL DID, VICKI AND BOBBY ARE COMING FOR SUPPER.

I WANTED TO WATCH YOU DANCE YESTERDAY, BUT THE CITY'S SO FAR AWAY...
IT'S FINE. THERE'S ALWAYS NEXT TIME.

BEFORE THE OTHERS ARRIVE, I HAVE SOMETHING TO TAKE CARE OF.

KEEP THE TAMALES WARM. I'LL RETURN SOON!

HOW WAS THE FINAL SHOW?
WE GOT A STANDING OVATION.
THEY'LL MAKE ME PRINCIPAL DANCER NEXT YEAR.
WELL DESERVED!
IS IT? ARE YOU SURE? THERE'S SO MUCH PRESSURE. WHAT IF I--
I KNOW YOU, ROSE. SO YES, I'M SURE.
THANK YOU.
CAN YOU DANCE BALLET HERE? TEACH US SOME MOVES?
THERE'S TIME FOR A BRIEF SHOW.
THOUGH I DO HAVE ONE FAVOR TO ASK...
WHAT IS IT?

WHEN WE MET, YOU MENTIONED DANCES FROM THE PAST. MY PEOPLE HAVE LIVED HERE A LONG TIME, TOO. CAN YOU TEACH THE OLD DANCES TO ME?
OF COURSE!
FWOOSH
ROSE WAS TEN MINUTES LATE FOR DINNER, BUT HER MOTHER HAD KEPT THE TAMALES WARM.
MOMMA. I WANT TO SHARE SOMETHING WITH YOU.
HM?
AN OLD DANCE. A DANCE OF OUR ANCESTORS.
LET'S GO OUTSIDE WHERE THERE'S MORE SPACE.

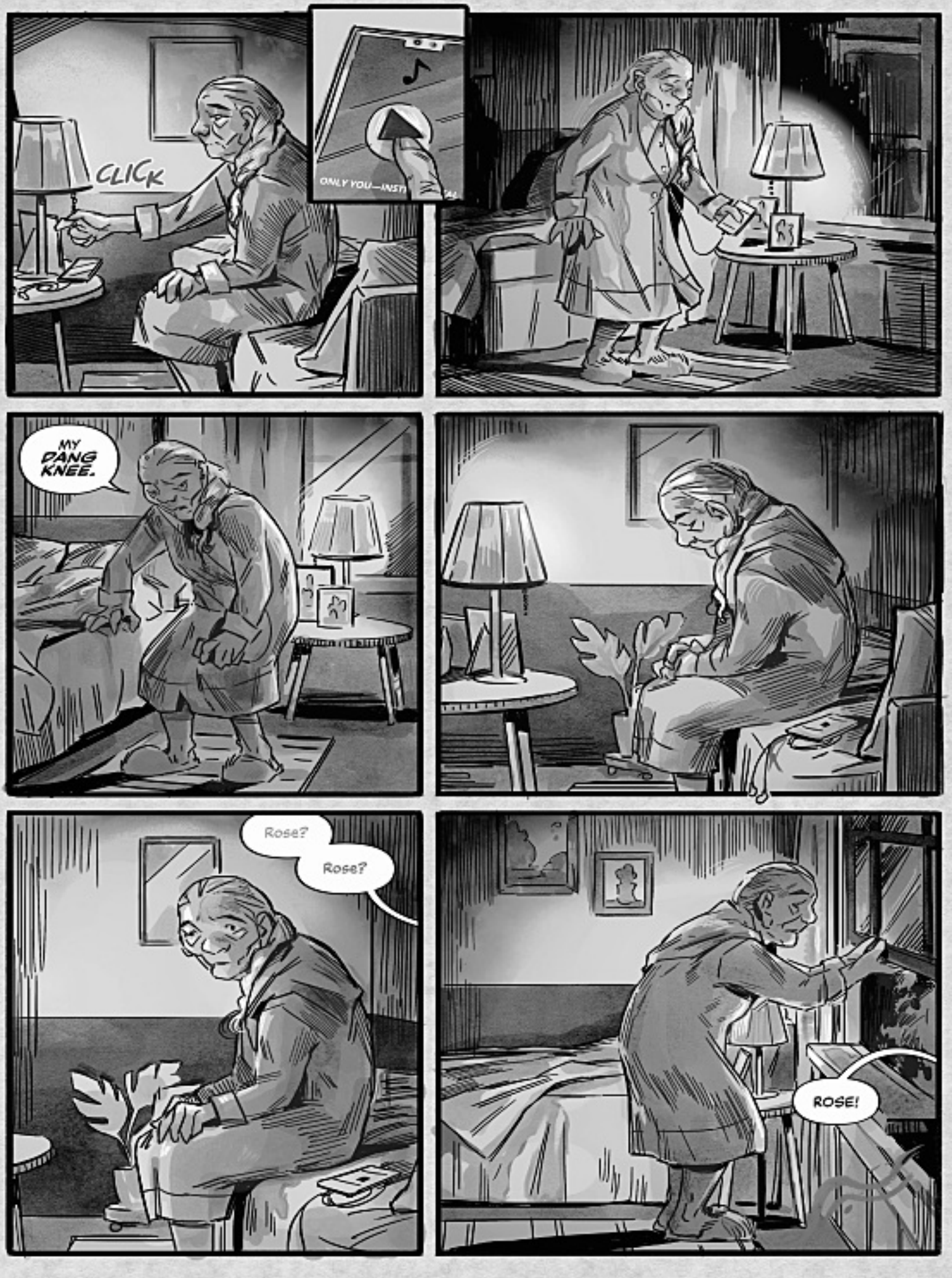
WHO SHARED THIS KNOWLEDGE?
I THOUGHT IT WAS LOST.
MY MYSTERIOUS FRIENDS ALONG THE CREEK.
XASTÉYÓ.
INEVITABLY, SOME PRECIOUS THINGS--AND PEOPLE--ARE LOST IN THE CURRENT OF TIME.
WHAT WILL WE DO WITH ALL HER STUFF, ROSE?
I'LL STORE EVERYTHING AFTER THE HOUSE IS GONE, DON'T WORRY.
THEY SOLD THE HOUSE?
THERE WAS NO CHOICE. WITH THEIR MOTHER GONE, THE SIBLINGS COULD NOT AFFORD IT.
STILL, ROSE HOPED THAT WOULD BE TEMPORARY.

I'LL BUY THIS PROPERTY BACK SOMEDAY, BOBBY.
UNTIL THEN, MY FRIENDS CAN WATCH OVER OUR HOME.
NO!
REED!
REED!

WHAT DID THEY DO TO YOU?
MA'AM! THIS IS AN ACTIVE WORK SITE.
WHEN DID YOU PLOW OVER EVERYTHING?
COUPLE MONTHS AGO, MA'AM, YOU NEED TO LEAVE.
I'M SO SORRY, MY FRIENDS.

WHY DID THEY TEAR DOWN ALL THE REEDS?
IN ROSE'S LIFETIME--AND THE LIFETIMES OF HER MOTHER, GREAT-GRANDMOTHER, AND GREAT-GREAT GRANDMOTHER--HER HOMELAND WAS STOLEN AND STRIPPED OF LIFE. EVEN NOW, HER PEOPLE STRUGGLE.
THAT'S TERRIBLE.
YES... BUT THEY SURVIVE.
BY TEACHING BALLET, ROSE EVENTUALLY SAVED ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY AN ACRE OF LAND. AFTER MANY DECADES, SHE GAVE IT TO HER NEPHEW.
HOWEVER, ROSE COULD NOT REMAIN AT HOME. AS HER HEALTH DECLINED, SHE WAS MOVED TO A FACILITY FOR ELDERS WHO HAVE NO BETTER OPTIONS.

IT'S TIME FOR BED, ROSE.
SWEET DREAMS.
THEY OFTEN ARE.


CLICK
ONLY YOU—INST
MY DANG KNEE.
Rose?
Rose?
ROSE!

WE'RE WAITING FOR YOU, ROSE.
DEAR FRIEND, I'M SO TIRED.
LEAN ON ME.
SHWISH
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONE FOREVER. THEY DESTROYED THE OLD CREEK!
WE ESCAPED. IT WASN'T EASY, BUT OUR NEW PLACE IS BEAUTIFUL. YOU'LL SEE.

WELCOME HOME, ROSE.
OH, MY FRIENDS! MY FRIENDS!

IS THIS MY HOME NOW?
IT'S ALWAYS BEEN.

ROSE AND THE REED PEOPLE CELEBRATED TOGETHER, EXPRESSING DANCES NEW AND OLD, UNFORGOTTEN AND TIMELESS.

PERHAPS, ALONG A GLITTERING LAKE IN HILL COUNTRY, THEY'RE STILL DANCING.
SWISHHH

I WISH I COULD DANCE, TOO.
YOU CAN!
ANYONE CAN DANCE IN THEIR OWN WAY.
AND SING. AROOOO!
THE END.

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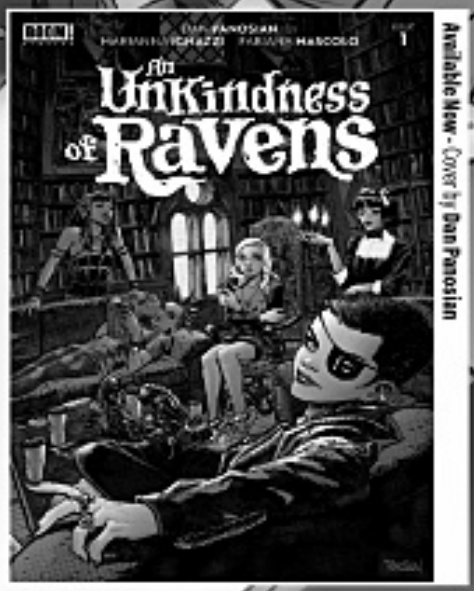

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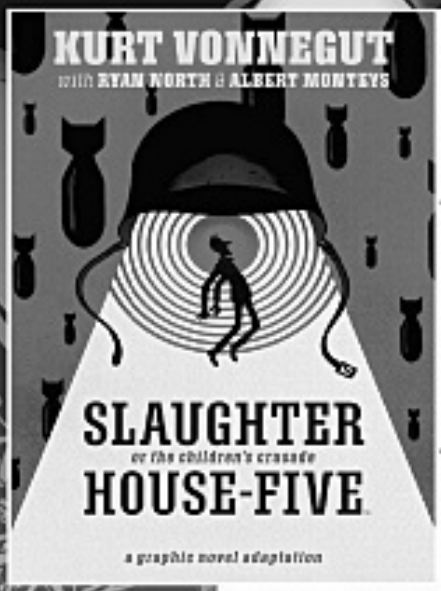

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